Rashid pharmacy manager says it’s worst he’s seen in 23 years

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Despite record levels of flu shots being dispensed nationwide and the veracity of the influenza A virus that’s ripped through the area the past three months, it appears Lee County and southeast Iowa weren’t hit as hard as other parts of the state.

According to data from the Lee County Health Department, influenza activity remains high in Iowa and is widespread, but samples from the State Hygienic Laboratory, the main reporting agency in the state’s week-to-week results, 24 schools in the state reported 10 percent or more illnesses at least once during the week.

The southeast region, which includes Lee County, reported just two schools in the week ending Feb. 17 and 28 schools since Oct. 1.

Statewide, there have also been 157 influenza-related deaths reported for the whole flu season.

Tom Nelson, pharmacy manager and 18 year employee of Rashid Pharmacy in Fort Madison said it’s easily been the hardest this area has been hit by the flu in his 18 years dispensing medicine.

“I’ve been a pharmacist for 23 years and I’ve never seen it this severe before,” Nelson said. He said both generic and brand name Tamiflu doses have been very high as well.

“We’ve dispensed over 310 children regimens of Tamiflu capsules in generic form and then about 50 of the name brand, plus 400 doses for adults and children that can swallow the pills. Both brand name and generic were off the charts this year. And that doesn’t count

The map above shows a close-up of the city of Fort Madison. The green areas are the areas that are qualified to be Opportunity Zones. Officials need to have an application to the state by March 19 and then Gov. Kim Reynolds will recommend 60 areas in the state to the U.S. Department of Treasury to be accepted into the O-Fund Zones.

The incentive is to allow low or private investors to defer capital gains taxes on the earnings until Dec. 31, 2026, while at the same time seeing possible earnings in the O-Fund with depending on on how long the investor leaves the money in the fund, could result in no capital gains tax on the earnings in the fund. The initial money rolled over into the fund, would be subjected to capital gains rates at the time the fund is sold.

If an investor leaves the money in the O-Fund for a minimum of 10 years, there would be no capital gains tax on the money earned in the fund, minus the original investment. There is a sliding rate at seven and five years in the fund.

According to the Iowa Economic Development Authority, the state has 239 areas that would qualify for the program, but Gov. Kim Reynolds would only be able to submit 25%, or 60, of

By CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - A new incentive program aimed at generating private investment in lagging Iowa communities, could be coming to Fort Madison.

The program was born out of the Tax Cut and Jobs Act of 2017, where private investment helps spur economic development in areas designated as Low Income Community Census Tracts, or Qualified Opportunity Zones. The initiative allows private investors to roll their unrealized capital gains, or gains on investments in stocks that haven’t been sold, into O-Funds.

The incentive is to allow private investors to defer capital gains taxes on the earnings until Dec. 31, 2026, while at the same time seeing possible earnings in the O-Fund which, depending on how long the investor leaves the money in the fund, could result in no capital gains tax on the earnings in the fund. The initial money rolled over into the fund, would be subjected to capital gains rates at the time the fund is sold.

If an investor leaves the money in the O-Fund for a minimum of 10 years, there would be no capital gains tax on the money earned in the fund, minus the original investment. There is a sliding rate at seven and five years in the fund.

According to the Iowa Economic Development Authority, the state has 239 areas that would qualify for the program, but Gov. Kim Reynolds would only be able to submit 25%, or 60, of

See INFLUENZA, page 9

Keokuk woman named to state HOF

Submitted article

KEOKUK - For more than 45 years, Dev Kiedaisch has devoted her time and talents to causes such as education, literacy, poverty, and equal rights/equal pay for women and minorities.

She is one to act, coordinate, and implement programs that make a difference. Her vision for increasing volunteerism in the community will impact programming for years to come.

After attending a workshop in Des Moines in 2011 about the importance of promoting volunteerism in your community, Dev dreamed of establishing a volunteer center in Keokuk that would connect people with opportunities to serve. She was

See HONOR, page 6

Download our free app today for iOS & Android!
KEMPKER’S
Small Engine Repair Shop
EARLY BIRD
Tune-Up SPECIALS

Visit our
Small Engine
Repair Specialists
Corey Brown and
Jeremy Chambers!

Going on Now thru MARCH 18th, 2018

Push Mowers
$49.99
parts separate

Riding Mowers
$79.99
parts separate

Tune-Up Includes:
Detailed Inspection • Blade Sharpening • Oil & Filter Changes

Servicing All Makes and Models • Pick-up and Delivery Available

KEMPKER’S
1904 Avenue H • Ft. Madison, IA • 319-372-3515
www.kempkerstruevalue.com
FORT MADISON - They’re 22 of the class of ’22. And they’ve thrown their weight behind Head Coach Tony Shiffman and the Fort Madison Bloodhound football team.

On Tuesday 22 members of the incoming freshman class gave commitments to Shiffman and the Hound staff to help build the program. Shiffman will be in his second year as head coach of the Bloodhounds.

In the photo above, Assistant Coach, and strength and conditioning coordinator, Derek Doherty, talks with members of the incoming class while Assistant Coach Andrew Troxel listens at the back of the classroom.

MONTROSE - Lee County Conservation’s annual Prairie Egg Hunt is taking place Saturday, March 24 at 2 p.m. at the Heron Bend Conservation Area.

Kids will be divided into four age groups that will tramp through the prairie in search of candy-filled eggs at different times.

Entry fee is $2. The public is invited to visit the animals and displays in the Conservation Center after the event. Contact (319) 463-7673 with any questions.

IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

Lotto Drawings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Game</th>
<th>Draw Days</th>
<th>Sales Cut Off Time</th>
<th>Approx. Drawing Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lucky for Life®</td>
<td>Mon &amp; Thu</td>
<td>8:30 pm</td>
<td>9:38 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mega Millions®</td>
<td>Tues &amp; Fri</td>
<td>8:59 pm</td>
<td>10:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Powerball®</td>
<td>Wed &amp; Sat</td>
<td>8:59 pm</td>
<td>9:59 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lotto Amorica™</td>
<td>Wed &amp; Sat</td>
<td>8:59 pm</td>
<td>10:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pick 3 - Midday</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>12:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pick 3 - Evening</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>9:40 pm</td>
<td>10:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pick 4 - Midday</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>12:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pick 4 - Evening</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>9:40 pm</td>
<td>10:00 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.
Kidtek U, Southeastern Community Colleges, Summer Youth Camps keep your children engaged, learning, and having fun during the summer. Camps take place in June and July meeting Monday - Friday from either 9am - noon or 1 - 4pm.

Camps are designed for kids of all ages; standard camps for students grades 4 - 6, and advanced camps for grades 7 - 9. Each week-long camp cost $179.

Partial scholarships are open to Lee County residents! Preference will be given to students with a need and haven't received a scholarship in the past.

First round of application reviews starts April 19th.

There are a limited number of scholarships and camps available so don't delay. Scholarships and camps fill quickly. Registration opens May 1st.

Have questions about any Lee County EDG events or programs contact Dana Millard for more information.

**5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Weather</th>
<th>High</th>
<th>Low</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THU 08 Mar</td>
<td>Partly Cloudy</td>
<td>29.3º F</td>
<td>17.5º F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRI 09 Mar</td>
<td>Light Snow</td>
<td>34.2º F</td>
<td>29.8º F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT 10 Mar</td>
<td>Light Snow</td>
<td>38.6º F</td>
<td>27.3º F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUN 11 Mar</td>
<td>Clear Skies</td>
<td>34.5º F</td>
<td>24.3º F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MON 12 Mar</td>
<td>Clear Skies</td>
<td>37.2º F</td>
<td>28.3º F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hound grapplers say goodbye to seniors

FORT MADISON - At Wednesday's banquet for the Fort Madison Bloodhound wrestling team, the program said goodbye to four seniors including from left, Ryan Steffensmeier. Ryan was 1st team all-conference in the Southeast loop, was a two-time state qualifier and placed at 113lbs as a junior. He was also selected to the All-Academic Conference team and was an Iron Hound for not missing any practices during the year. Second from left is 152lb state champion Harlan Steffensmeier. Harlan was a four-time state qualifier, four-time state placer, 1st Team All-Conference, Most Outstanding Wrestler of the Southeast Conference, Academic All-Conference, an Iron Hound, Varsity Outstanding Wrestler, Varsity Hammer of the Year, has the school record for most wins with 159 and recorded 94 pins in his career. Second from right is Aaron Steffensmeier. Aaron was a 1st Team All-Conference, Academic All-Conference, a state qualifier, an Iron Hound and co-Most Improved Varsity Wrestler. At far right is Dalton Mabeus, who was Varsity Newcomer of the Year and Academic All-Conference. Not pictured is Austin Haas, of Holy Trinity Catholic, who was also named Academic All-Conference. Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Kidtek grants underway

Subscribe to #PCC today
Free and Paid Options Available.

YOUR AD HERE
(319)371.4125

Webesalsa
Fresh, Homemade Texas Salsa
www.webesalsa.com
They told us.....
.....family & friends have told us for years to bottle and sell this stuff. Now is your chance to purchase. Please let us know what you think.

Chuck & Kayla

---

Visit us Online: www.yourheatandairguy.com
Like us on Facebook!
ANNOUNCEMENTS:

2018 Announcement Party - Saturday, March 10th starting at 6pm
Kinnick South 1310 14th St. Ft. Madison, Iowa
NO COVER CHARGE
Ticket Sales • Raffles • Giveaways • Drawings
The Natu Band will play starting at 8 p.m.

Battle of the Bands & Battle of the Charities - Sunday May 27th at 12pm
Vinnies Longbranch 2601 Avenue L Ft. Madison, Iowa
NO COVER CHARGE
Battling Bands will play for a spot on the main stage as an opener to one of our national acts.
Elliott Test Kitchen, PAWS and Puppy Jakes Foundation will be battling for your support through free-will donations. Winning charity will receive an additional $500.

Sponsorship Opportunities are available. Contact Charles Craft charles@riverfestfm.com or Shawna Ross sross@riverfestfm.com.

There are a few Commercial, Craft and Food Vendor spots available. Contact: Lori Illner (Food Vendor) food@riverfestfm.com and Gina Simmons (Craft & Commercial) vendor@riverfestfm.com.

Dragon Boats Return!
Saturday, August 4th, 2018
Entry fees are $500 per team before May 1st, 2018
($600 per team after May 1st)
20 Team Members per boat (a Sternsman is provided)
Great Team Building Exercise for Business, Groups, Organizations, Churches and More!

Form your team today!
Contact Nick Bauswell dragonboats@riverfestfm.com

Thank you to our 2018 Partners!

Become A Partner...Contact Charles or Shawna Today!
This year, do your part to keep our environment clean, too! Here are just a few of the ways you can help:

- Properly dispose of your household hazardous waste materials, construction debris, & electronic waste
- Use environmentally-safe cleaning products
- Reduce • Reuse • Recycle
- Check our website for proper disposal methods, acceptable materials, & more
SALES SUPERHERO WANTED

Pen City Current has an exciting opportunity in media sales available for a customer-oriented person who is goal-oriented and creative, with a strong drive to succeed. Prior sales and media experience is a plus, but not necessary. Must be Internet and social media savvy, as well as highly computer literate. If you love working with people and thinking outside the box, this opportunity could be perfect for you!

Pen City Current offers a fun, rewarding, and family-like working environment with lots of flexibility. Our mission is to help our customers succeed while providing HyperLocalSuperFresh content for our readers 24/7. If you’re interested in learning more, shoot us an email, message us on Facebook, or DM us on Twitter.

BE PART OF A WINNING TEAM

New Dimensions is looking for motivated team members to add to our friendly and professional team. We are looking for a full-time stylist who is looking for a new place to call home.

With a 35 year proven track record, quality products, and an easygoing, relaxed atmosphere, New Dimensions is the perfect place to express your creativity and be part of a winning team.

In this role you will be working in a positive environment with professional staff who have expansive knowledge in the industry.

If you have the essential requirements and would like to seize this great opportunity, please call 319-372-6291 or stop in at 1736 Ave. G in Fort Madison.

FOR RENT

5 Generations of Printing

Flash in the Pan

Bridal & Baby Showers
Anniversary & Birthday Parties
Receptions & Retreats

Unforgettable Celebrations

BOULDER INN & SUITES
4901 AVO O FT MADISON IOWA 319-246-1401
EVENTS@BOULDERRINNFORTMADISON

1135 Ave. E • Wednesday-Saturday 5-9pm

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

517-675-2721 • doddprinting.com

517-470-8711 • 319-246-1401

E (large white building – the corner of 15th street and Ave E)

SALON SPACE FOR RENT

Ready to open! Nice, friendly atmosphere, all utilities included. New paint & flooring. $325 per month. Located at the corner of 15th street and Avenue E. 319-470-8711.

COMMERICAL SPACE FOR RENT

Nicely located, full service salon

319-372-6291

MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

Epson 69 Black and Color CMY Ink Cartridges (T069120-BCS)

Combo 4/ Pack. Box opened, but cartridges are not purchased wrong package for my printer. Regularly $62.99, will sell for $50.00. Call Lee at (319)371.4125 or email sales@pencitycurrent.com.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

RoDEx PAReK REHaB
Short-term rehabilitation

Fully equipped state-of-the-art therapy gym
Occupational, physical, and speech therapy
Personalized therapy plans
Private rooms
Compassionate nursing staff

We’ll get you ready to:
“Giddy Up & Go Home!”

State Farm Bank®: Fully equipped state-of-the-art therapy gym
Occupational, physical, and speech therapy
Personalized therapy plans
Private rooms
Compassionate nursing staff

519-372-3021 | 702 41st Street, Fort Madison, IA

STATE FARM BANK:

State Farm Bank, F.S.B., Bloomington, IL

State Farm® Bank with a Good Neighbor®.

WEDDING GOWN PRESERVATION

319 385 9707 . 888 485 9707

Don’t Let

Slip Away

Because your wedding gown is precious to you. Let us preserve it.

IRIS CITY CLEANERS
319 385 9707 . 888 485 9707
www.IrisCityCleaners.com

IRVING'S TENT & EVENT RENTAL

IRVING'S TENT & EVENT RENTAL

Call (319)371.4125 or email sales@pencitycurrent.com

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Great River Regional Waste Authority is accepting bids for the mowing of its properties located at 2092 303rd Ave in Fort Madison, and 111 Carbide lane in Keokuk.

Bids must be received by April 2nd by 4:00 p.m.

It is recommended that all bidders look at the properties before submitting their bids.

Bids shall be for mowing services, weed eating every week (Unless not recommended by GRRWA) and all spraying needs if needed.

Bids need to be sent to: Great River Regional Waste Authority, 2092 303rd Ave. Fort Madison Iowa 52627 and to the Attention of: Wade Hamm.
We have Buyers!
They need Homes!

Call TODAY
to Sell Your Home!
319-372-9121
319-367-5744

Meet Our Team!

Dan Fraise
Broker/Auctioneer
319-470-3183

Corey Fraise
Broker/Auctioneer
319-470-0715

Carrie Fraise
Realtor®/Mktg Dir.
319-371-5535

Tami Stuekejuergen
Broker
319-470-3884

Carla McEntee
Broker/IA & IL
217-617-6575

Dan Roach
Realtor®
319-470-3114

Dorie Huddleston
Broker
319-931-4317

May Stocy
Realtor®
641-919-8098

Kelley Stevenson
Realtor®
319-470-2392

Carlee Kelly
Realtor®
319-470-8878

www.FraiseRealEstate.com

Offices in:
Fort Madison
2311 Ave L, Ste 1
Ft Madison, IA 52627
319-372-9121

New London
306 E Main Street
New London, IA 52645
319-367-5744
We're Located Only 10 Minutes From Wal-Mart or Shopko.

77 north of Avenue H from 18th to 24th Street.

Streets, as well as a six-block area south of Avenue H included north of Avenues E and D from 2nd to 18th.

Much of the Keokuk area is also a qualifying area.

A spokesperson for Hy-Vee’s corporate office said the chain does not disclose the number of flu shots or other flu medications, but agreed that it had been a very busy year.

Nelson said Rashid Pharmacy administered 482 flu shots from Sept. 1 through March 6, but that was down from 600 that were given during the same time period last season. He said most pharmacies are offering the shots as are local health departments so the demand is being spread out more this year.

According to the Iowa State Hygienic Laboratory, the highest age group in influenza A detections was 64 and older with 447 or 48% of all detections. The next highest is 50-64 and 18-24 with both showing 12% of all detections. Age groups 5-17, 25-49 and 0-4 each accounted for 9% of all detections.

Influenza B had similar ratios with the exception of the 5-17 age group, which represented 24% of the detections. 64 and over was the highest with influenza B at 33% of all detections.

The number of schools that were reporting higher than 10% of school absenteeism was led by Region 6, which is the greater Quad Cities area with nine schools reporting in the week ending Feb. 17. That region reported 100 schools with 10% or greater absenteeism since Oct. 1.

According to data from the Fort Madison Community Hospital through the end of last week, there were 339 positive tests for Influenza A and 99 positives for Influenza B for 443 confirmed positives at the hospital.

However, when the flu is as prevalent as it was this year, several providers don’t routinely test for the virus and treat the symptoms, so that number could be lower than actual infections.

The hospital gave more than 2,000 influenza tests so far this season and have administered 3,010 vaccines, which includes 520 to FMCH employees/volunteers, which are required as a condition of employment unless otherwise indicated by a physician.

The Center for Disease Control released information that indicated the vaccine effectiveness against illness caused by the Influenza A and B virus was estimated to be 36 percent.

A breakdown shows vaccines to be 25% effective against A (H3N2), 67% effective against A (H1N1), and 42% effective against B strains.

Children aged six months to eight years had considerably higher effectiveness estimates, with 59% against influenza A and B overall and 51% against influenza A(H3N2).

The Iowa Department of Public Health is still recommending influenza vaccination for those who have not yet been vaccinated this season because influenza will likely continue to circulate for several more weeks.